

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2005. Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1, 12, and 22-24 have been amended, and claim 25 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-24 and 26-27 remain pending in the present application. The Examiner's indication that claims 1-27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejections is acknowledged and appreciated.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to include the recitations of canceled claim 25. This amendment is unrelated to the patentability of the claim based on prior art.

Drawing Objections

Revised drawings labeled as "Replacement sheets" are submitted herewith for FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 5, and FIGS. 6A-7A. The drawings have been amended as follows: FIG. 1 was amended to add a "Prior Art", as requested by the Examiner. FIG. 2 was amended to correct a typographical error in step 114. FIG. 5 has been amended to show the "internal node connections," as requested by the Examiner, by including element 404, "via 1 metal 2 internal node connections". The text description on page 11, line 5, of the Specification has also been amended to include corresponding language.

The Examiner objected to FIGS 6A-7B for failing to show metal 1 and 2 wordline connections or severances by spacer cells, as described in the Specification. In response, the metal 2 word line has been darkened in FIGS 6A-7A to better illustrate the various split word line connections made over the configurable spacer cell, as described

in the specification. With Respect to FIG. 7B, it is respectfully submitted that no amendment is required, as FIG. 7B illustrates a break configuration in which the metal 1 VDD line within the spacer cell 406 is severed, as shown.

Specification Objections

The Specification was amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct typographical errors on Page 2. The Summary and Abstract have also been amended to incorporate the amendment to claim 1.

Claim Objections

Claim 22 was amended to depend from claim 21, rather than claim 24.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1, 12, and 24 have been amended to recite "the memory array," rather than "the base memory array," and claim 23 has been amended to recite "the base memory array," in the body of the claim to correct antecedent basis rejections.

In view of the foregoing, the objection and §112 rejections have been overcome, making claims 1-24 and 26-27 allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and passage to issue of claims 1-24 and 26-27 as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen G. Sullivan', is written over a horizontal line.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

FIG. 1 was amended to add a "Prior Art label".

FIG. 2 was amended to correct a typographical error is step 114.

FIG. 5 has been amended to show the internal node connections 404.

FIGS. 6A-7A have been amended to darken the metal 2 word line.